

THE TRUE AMERICAN.

Devoted to Universal Liberty.

VOLUME I.

TERMS.
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EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Florence, Ky., May 1st, 1846.

To C. M. CLAY, Esq.—Having resided nearly eight years in Kentucky, will you allow me room in the columns of your paper to give some of my views upon the subject of slavery?—Kentuckians ask, why so much sympathy for the African, by people of the North, while they enslave their own white citizens. I wish to tell them the difference of Northern and Southern slavery, as I understand it.

The more fortunate of mankind, acquire power in the North, as in the South, this power may be pernicious, and is, in all countries, used to the disengagement and oppression of the less fortunate. Northern slavery then, I do not deny or justify; it has its origin in pernicious aggression; but that it equals Southern slavery in the magnitude of its evils, I do in all sincerity, deny. The slavery of the North, consists in rendering contracted services, made necessary by the unequal distribution of property, in an unorganized state of society. The contract is mutually entered upon, and Northern slavery is nothing more than the fulfillment of this contract, by rendering such services as it requires. The employed and the employers are parties in the contract; the employer renders equal obligations to the employee, to fulfil his part by requiring the employee, to fulfil the full amount of his services.—Can we say this of Southern slavery? No, it recognizes no act of the slave for its authority, and renders no reward, above the brutes, for services rendered. Southern slavery, then, is arbitrary; it has not the assent of the enslaved; Northern servitude is voluntary. Southern slavery renders no compensation to him who performs the work; Northern servitude does. Away, then, with such flimsy excuses for unmilitated slavery.

In the North, the contract is the law of service; in the South, the master's will is the law; and the populace are gained over to the interests of slaveholders, to see that their will be done. Should any counteract it, they are made to feel the ire of these Lords of America, who delight in robbing them of their reputation and influence. Through fear of loss, then, the poor white laborers of slave States are bribed to sustain slavery, the greatest of evildoers, and they are restrained from using that freedom of speech and expression of sentiment which, rightly exercised, would make them true philanthropists. Slaveholders may boast of our free institutions and equality of right, but it is an idle talk, so long as they hold human beings from participating in these rights; and whatever their professions of kindness, their tender mercies are cruel, "so long as they rob one class of human beings of the attributes of man, and deny another. It is in vain that man is made a man, if he is denied the privilege of acting the man."

I charge slavery with the crime of robbing a man of himself, and rendering it unsafe for citizens of slave States to express their sentiments and act conscientiously, if they believe slavery to be sinful. To perpetuate slavery, then, the dearest rights of man are sacrificed; laborers and dependents are made panderers to the caprices and interests of slave power, and instruments to effect, if possible, the ruin of those who have moral courage and magnanimity enough to act independently in advocating the cause of the poor, and the general interests of community, and defending those rights, sacred to us by the blood of our fathers, against the wrongs of slavery.

Your paper sheds light in the path of misguided men, who are right in feeling, but wrong in action; it invites them to take a higher stand, and no longer pay homage at the shrine of suffering humanity, and will, ere long, cause the slaveholder to rely upon his own arm to protect his property in human flesh, rather than upon the physical energies of his poorer neighbors. The poor laborer, with a conscience untrammelled, will read a higher destiny and aim with purer motives.

The day, when the people of this country shall act in concert, as one man, for "God and Liberty," God speed the day, when our National and State governments shall dare to look at the wrongs of slavery, and utter to the millions in bondage, be free—the men; then, and not till then, will justice be done, and our nation exalted to true greatness. ALME.

Canton, O., March 9th, 1846.

C. M. CLAY, Esq.—Sir:—My attention was taken by a notice in your paper of the 2d February, by a citizen at Mount Pleasant, Pa., December 28th, 1845, and signed E. S. A. The subject is "Canada." The author says, he has resided there three years, and knows all about it; that the Canadians are a happy and contented people, had slavery, and that no man is morded in Canada. "An individual, high or low, obscure or conspicuous, no matter what are his political, moral, or religious opinions and sentiments," is protected in his rights. He says the people make their own laws, by representatives chosen by the whole united people, rich and poor, at the ballot box, and that there is no veto there; the taxes are not high; the British Government made all their public works, and their school system is similar to that in the State of New York, &c.

Now, sir, it so happens, that I have lived in Canada seven years, from December, 1830, to December, 1837, and since I left, I have had a good deal of intercourse with the people of Canada, and I think I ought to know something about it, too. In what the gentleman says about slavery I shall not differ with him materially, as to facts, although there are many Canadians who curl up their nose at the mention or sight of a "Nigger." In 1836, one Malesby, a runaway slave from Kentucky, was arrested at Niagara and thrust into jail, by a

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY,

a particular kind. The first lesson in their spelling book is, "Fear God and honor the King." They must also teach the Church of England catechism.

One seventh part of all the public lands are reserved for the use of the protestant clergy,—meaning the Church of England clergy. And whenever a rectory is established, the inhabitants are bound to obey the laws and regulations of the Church of England.

I know, sir, of my own knowledge and experience, that many of the Canadians predicated on an indictment obtained in Kentucky, and a requisition from the Governor of Kentucky upon Sir Francis Head, then Governor of Upper Canada, for his extradition. The people of Niagara remonstrated, in a numerous signed memorial, against his being given up again, to be carried into slavery; setting forth in their memorial, that the horse alleged to have been stolen by Malesby, was his master's horse; that Malesby rode him off until he reached the Ohio river, and there left him; that his master got the horse again; and that the laws of Kentucky did not recognize the act as a crime; that the indictment was a mere pretence, in order to recover the slave. Sir F. B. Head answered the memorials by saying he would not harbor horse thieves, and ordered Malesby to be given up. A mob collected round the jail for the purpose of rescuing the slave. A platoon of soldiers were ordered to fire on the mob; and two persons were killed on the spot and others wounded. A Coroner's jury, selected by a Coroner who had no sympathies with the people, returned a verdict of *justifiable homicide*.

It is too true, that there is much in the United States, that all good men deplore, and Canadians among the rest. Should a war like place between the United States and Great Britain, I have no confidence in the belief that our Government would take or conquer Canada, so long as we are in the hands of slaveholders. This Government could have taken Canada in the last war, but they did not want it; it would make too strong a northern preponderance against slavery. If our energies had been directed to an attack on Montreal, we could have taken a position which would have cut off all above, and have saved millions to the country, but that was not the object: the object was merely to harass the British, while our Western frontier was left open to the tomahawk and scalping knife, and the result was, we were the worst harassed. The fleets on Lake Ontario and Erie, Hull's surrender, and the burning of Buffalo, might all have been saved, had our government done its duty in the last war; but then as now, slavery ruled.

But I find I am spinning out my subject too long, and therefore will close. I may at some future day advert to it again. Will you publish the foregoing for the benefit of E. S. A., and such others as it may concern? By so doing you will oblige.

A Subcriber.

For the True American.

American Slavery.

There are but few persons in the United States who believe that slavery is right, although many (interested no doubt) both at the North and South, are opposed to its immediate abolition. The Maysville (Ky.) Eagle contains the charge of Judge Reid to the Grand Jury of Mason county, delivered on the first of November last, which has been published in the True American. The worthy judge says, "Slavery was instituted by God—and Abraham, the faithful, had three hundred and ten born in his house, besides those bought with money; and the descendants of the Patriarchs, Jews, Romans and Greeks, held slaves; that the members of the Clergy reserve, a meeting was called for that purpose, at a place called Parmerville. The Government party turned out, and as a test of numerical strength, tried to elect a very chairman; they failed. The reformers elected David Fairbairn, a very respectable Scoteman, as chairman. As soon as Mr. Fairbairn took his seat upon the stand a signal was given, and every Orange man present drew out from under his great coat a hickory club, (good democats there) and fell upon the reformers, knocked down the chairman, and left his head open, and dispersed the meeting. The act was so barefaced an outrage that the Court of King's Bench convicted three of the ringleaders, and sentenced others to pay a small fine and from twenty to sixty days imprisonment. A petition was got up immediately, in their behalf, to Sir John Colburn, setting forth that these men were very loyal, and in their loyal zeal had been a little imprudent, and his excellency at once pardoned them. Not a year afterwards these three precious scoundrels were guilty of burning a valuable barn of the Hon. Jonas Jones, and got clear of conviction.

If I were to recount all the mobs I have witnessed in Canada, you would not publish them. I will simply refer the gentleman to the election mobs in Leeds, and in York, at various times; and I assert here, without the fear of contradiction, that there is not a general election in Canada, when the reformers are not mobbed somewhere, and the free choice of representatives defeated. To say that rich and poor vote at the ballot box, is a regular choker. The gentleman who says little about Canada, if he does not know that they vote *viva voce*, and none but freeholders vote, except in the borough towns, and there, a man who rents a tenement and has actually paid his rent, not less than \$10, and has been assessed and paid taxes within the year can vote. Nor do they vote free then, they are generally paid for their vote in some shape. I knew one man, in Brookville, to receive \$180 for a vote, another \$50, and so on.

Next: as to their being no veto in Canada.—True, there is no veto by that name, but the Governor can at any time reserve bills for the royal assent, which is the same thing as a veto; and it is as often done as the veto is practised at Washington; that was a standing grievance in those United States previous to the Revolution, and it is a standing grievance there, now. When the Parliament is made up of creatures who echo the sentiments of a Governor sent from Downing street, London, all goes very smooth; but when the people are truly represented, and they pass laws for the good of the people, they may be and are frequently reserved for the royal assent, which is the end of them.

If Canada has such a fair government, and the people are so contented, how happens it that in both provinces there are only about one million of inhabitants. It was settled two hundred years ago. Ohio, with fewer natural advantages, and for a long time without the advantages of an outlet to market, fifty years ago was a wilderness, and now has a population of 1,800,000. Does this show the motherly kindness of Great Britain? No, sir. It is the policy of Great Britain to keep them down by a system of government which discourages all enterprise. In the whole of Canada there is not a cotton mill or woollen factory, nor an iron forge; scarcely a hole nail made there,—just as the free trade policy will fix if locofoco gets the upper hand.

I wish I had the time, and you the patience, to publish Canadian misrule; we could then judge how happy and contented that people are. The officers of the Government are quite contented with their condition, but the great body of the people are far otherwise.

Our friend speaks in high terms of the common schools, and compares them to the New York system. There are common schools there, but none can teach them but British subject. A staid, sober, well informed yankee, stands no chance in competition with a drunken Irishman, as a teacher; and no teacher can draw a copper of the public money unless he teaches from *Glyde*, N. Y., April 25th, 1846.

of a Negro catcher, on a charge of horse stealing, predicated on an indictment obtained in Kentucky, and a requisition from the Governor of Kentucky upon Sir Francis Head, then Governor of Upper Canada, for his extradition. The people of Niagara remonstrated, in a numerous signed memorial, against his being given up again, to be carried into slavery; setting forth in their memorial, that the horse alleged to have been stolen by Malesby, was his master's horse; that Malesby rode him off until he reached the Ohio river, and there left him; that his master got the horse again; and that the laws of Kentucky did not recognize the act as a crime; that the indictment was a mere pretence, in order to recover the slave. Sir F. B. Head answered the memorials by saying he would not harbor horse thieves, and ordered Malesby to be given up. A mob collected round the jail for the purpose of rescuing the slave. A platoon of soldiers were ordered to fire on the mob; and two persons were killed on the spot and others wounded. A Coroner's jury, selected by a Coroner who had no sympathies with the people, returned a verdict of *justifiable homicide*.

We give the following extracts from Mr. Bott's letter. All is not dead that sleeps?

—Ed. T. Am.

To the Editor of the Bardstown Gazette:

DEAR SIR:—I am opposed to a Convention, and I shall continue so, until I am convinced that the present Constitution of the State, is inadequate to the purposes for which it was originally organized. Whenever the organic law of the land shall be found oppressive, or shall fail to protect the people, in the enjoyment of all their moral, social, legal and religious rights, I shall be found an advocate for its annihilation or amendment. But until that period arrives I shall be numbered among the objects to innovation. The first column of the article under consideration, is devoted to uncertain conjectures, as to the extent of the agitation, which will ensue, (in case of a convention,) upon the subject of emancipation; and hence this portion of it will be very briefly noticed; for a reply must necessarily be in keeping with the character and style of the original; but as I do not wish to stay into the fields of dark obscurity, knowing that it is given to man to look into futurity as through a glass, and that but dimly, I will leave that vexed question to be settled by an intelligent community, whose interests are deeply involved in the matter. I will however, add, that Mr. R. asks if there are five counties in the State that would return members in the next legislature, or to the convention, who would advocate the emancipation of the slave population! and if so, he requests that they should be named. This question embraces in it a weight of argument that would prove either side of any controversy that ever agitated the mind of man. Did not Prentiss, and all the *Wtiz* Editors, name all the States that would certainly vote for Clay? Did not the *Yeonui*, and all the *Democratic* Editors, name all the States that would certainly vote for Polk? Did not their predictions exactly accord with the final result? Suppose the counties should be named, would not the state be divided? Mr. R. can answer this.

The writer to whom I am replying, intimates, by interrogatories, that the State will go against emancipation, yet he fails to affirm, that such is the conviction of his mind. It is true, he avers that he does not fear, &c.; this, no doubt, is all true; for it may be possible that he is indifferent upon the subject. In the second paragraph, Mr. R. tells us that "the friends of emancipation allege that slavery were abolished, the place of slave labor would be immediately supplied by free labor from the Northern States." "This, I think," says he, "depends upon contingencies that would not be likely to happen;" yet he adds, "and the same cause that produced emancipation, would also produce a change of a great portion of the population of the State." Now, how he can reconcile this incompatible contradiction, and affirmation, is wholly incomprehensible, unless it is done by a play upon the word "*immediately*," How is a great change of the population to be made, and when it is effected, who will be the inhabitants of "old Ky?" Either the whites must go out, and leave the blacks in possession of the soil, or the slaves must go out, and leave their places to be supplied (not as slaves) by emigrants from the Northern States, or from other parts of the globe, who will come among us as freemen. In either one or other of these ways, this change, which Mr. R. admits will be the inevitable consequence of emancipation, must take place. The conclusion that a great change in the population of Kentucky, would be the result of emancipation, derives no additional force from the admission of Mr. R., for it is one that hangs upon the surface of thought and sight, and is obvious to the most indifferent spectator.

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Mr. R., in his article, uses the following language: "In fact, most of the persons who profess emancipation, are those who oppose it, and are of the *Wtiz* editors, name all the States that would certainly vote for Clay? Did not the *Yeonui*, and all the *Democratic* Editors, name all the States that would certainly vote for Polk? Did not their predictions exactly accord with the final result?" This is a weight of argument that would prove either side of any controversy that ever agitated the mind of man. Did not Prentiss, and all the *Wtiz* Editors, name all the States that would certainly vote for Clay? Did not the *Yeonui*, and all the *Democratic* Editors, name all the States that would certainly vote for Polk? Did not their predictions exactly accord with the final result? Suppose the counties should be named, would not the state be divided? Mr. R. can answer this.

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THE TRUE AMERICAN.

"GOD AND LIBERTY."

LEXINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 20.

Rex. C. T. Torrey.

The captive is at length free. Torrey breathed his last, in the prison of Baltimore, on Saturday, the 9th.

It was a hard lot. Pure in life, and benevolent in all his feelings, he did no wrong to any human being, and ought never to administer to the wants of the needy, and soothe the sufferings of the sad.

His friends believe him entirely innocent of the charge of which he was convicted. He was a devoted friend of liberty. He sympathized with master and man. But neither this devotion, nor this sympathy, could have led him, those who knew him ever, into any deed of violence, or to the commission of any act of injustice. Yet, with this character substantiated at the hour of his trial, he was found guilty, and died in prison!

There were those, unconnected with his home, classmates and friends, who offered money to the slaveholder who accused him, if he would consent to his release. But this lesson was denied them. There were those at his home, his aged parents, his wife, and his little ones, who prayed the Governor of Maryland, as kindly only know how to pray, for his pardon. This, too, was denied. And then came the sharpest trial of all. Disease seized upon the prisoner in the chilly air, and mucky gloominess of his prison cell. Fever was upon his brow, and he knew, as his friends saw, that life was ebbing fast. Unmoved, he bowed to death's stern decree. But one prayer to man he made, and that was, that he might die in the bosom of his family; and this prayer was unheeded, and away from friends and home, and name, he passed away, a captive on earth, to freedom in heaven.

One of the worst features in slavery is the iron vindictiveness with which it pursues those who interfere in any way with it. It has no ear then for mercy. It knows no gentleness. Avenging, avenging, cruel, it turns away from every appeal, and shuns its heart to every sympathy. It sees only supposed guilt, and glutts itself in wreaking vengeance upon its victim. Poor Torrey! Death did for thee, what the slaveholder denied; he gave thee freedom. And yet, at the foot-stool of God, if friends do not represent thee, thy prayer will be heard in intercession for those who have thus wronged thee.

Border Affairs

Since our last we have received no clear account of the exact condition of our Army, or the position of the Mexicans.

The opinion prevails, that Gen. Taylor is surrounded, and in imminent peril. One account says, "The enemy, 2,000 strong, on the 23d, had crossed the Rio Grande above General Taylor's camp!"—Another of the same date declares that 2,000 infantry and 1,200 cavalry had crossed the same stream, below Metamoras, and taken post between the American camp and Point Isabel, where the supplies are kept. And the latest story is, that Point Isabel was attacked on the night of the 29th. These various statements are contradictory in the extreme. We do not believe any of them.

The folly of the Army taking post where it has, is apparent. But we have no idea that it has been, or can be defeated by the Mexicans. Its perils are multiplied and magnified in every way, unless we are grossly deceived. By the 13th or 14th Gen. Taylor will receive a reinforcement of some 3,000 men.

Hottest.

Congress has voted the President ten millions of dollars and the power to raise 50,000 men. No debate was allowed in the House. The bill will be carried through the Senate, and this is not the right course, especially when the feeling on all sides was, that the country was in a state of war, and must be gotten out of it as soon as it could with honor.

That sterling Democratic Journal, the New York Morning News, does not understand this, particularly when every thing is on so grand a scale, "is it not?" it asks, "she will escape our hungry eagerness! An invading march to the city of Mexico! Nonsense!" And our Democratic friend then adopts a suggestion of Mr. Crittenden, and adds, "When clothed by Congress with ample power for war, then will be the time for the President to press earnestly upon Mexico for peace." It is not yet, we trust, too late!

Pull Together.

This is an honest and a true adage. If it were acted upon, we should not sink in quag-mires, nor be stalled in the plains.

Influence—what is it? why does one man possess it and another not? Nay, how does it happen that a man of the loftiest intellect has none of it, and another of ordinary powers is full of it? The secret lies in one thing—an active, earnest devotion in whatever we engage.

It is the idlest of all excuses, when we say in sight of difficulties, "it is useless—we can do nothing." Why, before we can if we think so. The traveler coming to the foot of a lofty mountain, over which it is necessary he should pass before arriving at his journey's end, looks up, and seeing the long, deep, and rocky precipices and rugged bosom, stops, disheartened, and gives up, because he fears to try the rugged pathway, we should hark at him as a fool or call him an coward. But where is the difference between him and the mortal seafarer, who, frightened at little or great embarrassments, yields as if he had no power to struggle with them? None whatever, except that the latter is a traitor to the highest obligations of the present and the future, and a mean deservator of his better nature and God's law.

We know something of this virtue—human influence—and of the ways in which it is exerted. We have studied both closely. Why, a man has changed the whole aeron of a village, and the hearing of a few men checked the intended proceeding of a whole community.

The Deserter.

In answer to Mr. Adams' resolution, inquiring whether any deserters from the U. S. Army had been shot, &c., the President communicated to Congress the following extract from General Taylor's dispatch, of the 6th ultim:

"Efforts are continually making to entice our men to desert, and I regret to say, have met with considerable success. Four, however, have been drowned in swimming the river, and two have been killed by our pickets while attempting to desert, which has operated to check the practice. A majority of those who have deserted are old offenders."

Virginia.

The Richmond Enquirer publishes a complete list of the members elected to the next Legislature, and appendeth thereto a recapitulation, showing the two houses to be constituted as follows:

| Democrats. | Whigs. |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Senate 60 | 12 |
| House of Delegates 72 | 60 |
| 92 | 72 |

Wheat Crop in Illinois.

An intelligent gentleman, just from Illinois, says the crop never promised so well. The yield will be at least one-third greater than last year; though last year the yield was double that of either of the four preceding years. The surplus of the last crop

exceeded 7,000,000 bushels,—which was disposed of at an average of 55 cents a bushel realized by the master. The change throughout the State in the feelings of the people is remarkable. Taxes are freely paid, independence, comfort and cheerfulness, are the blessings dispensed by a bountiful Providence to a happy and grateful people.

In the Massachusetts Senate.

Gentlemen: We are not so great as to appear alone or together, this influence? Who runs may read the cause, and every one who chooses may exercise it in the same good way. Try the experiment, friend. You hear slavery savagely denounced by the many or the few. You hear those who oppose it, vindictively threatened. Cowly, but determinedly look these braggarts in the face, and tell them your thoughts. Speak to them as though your right was as good as theirs. They will give way. It is not in the nature of things that they can stand before moral horrors, when they are in the wrong. And you, too, will possess influence—influence of the noblest character—that kind of influence which sanctifies a martyr's courage, and makes heroes of men.

Let no one, then, let none of our laboring friends especially, be disengaged at the seeming difficulties that beset them on this great question of human slavery; they can overcome them. A long pull, a strong pull, and a pull all together will do it. For our encouragement, a long son of hardy toil, independent mind a thick throng of ultra slave-holders, has sent us an instructive verse or so, copied from some paper, and we give it, for the benefit of all our readers, wishing that his example and his spirit might become living part of every laborer's bosom throughout the State.

A teamster whose wagon is in it a load, Was brought to a halt in a deep muddy road, When a team in Fortune met round his master, But all goad courage this saying he uttered:

No master is better in all sorts of weather,

Than a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull all together;

And a well-harnessed horse is a gentle and quiet, And pulling together they pull the load out.

Some end, some others is yoked or unyoked, The teamster is a master, and the teamster is a load,

Is won in the gloom of the wood goaded or master'd,

But all goad courage this saying he uttered:

No master is better in all sorts of weather,

Than a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull all together;

And a well-harnessed horse is a gentle and quiet,

And pulling together they pull the load out.

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South Carolina and Tennessee bear off the palm. "It is all right. Kentucky is too near the border; she is suspected ground, and clerical ambition as well as clerical service, need expect no elevation in the Church South." The Alabama report and resolutions about admitting more slaves within their borders, and the reasons assigned therefor, meant something, and that Kentuckians will learn before many years shall pass over their heads, though they do belong to the Church South.

Dr. Capers reported a plan for evangelizing the people of color. We hope to get hold of this. It will inform us how far the Church South mean to go on this subject.

The following resolution, offered on the 7th by Dr. Pease, was taken up:

Resolved. That a committee of five be appointed with instructions to digest and bring forward as early as possible a plan for raising money for the support of all the benevolent operations sustained by the Methodist E. Church South.

After an admiring address from the Doctor in support of the resolution, it was adopted, and the following gentlemen constitute the committee: Dr. Pease, Messrs. Hamilton, Schenck, Early, Wightman.

Rev. Dr. DRAKE moved the expulsion from the discipline of the rule which forbids preachers being stationed more than four years in certain places. A copy of the resolution will be found in the small edition of the discipline, page 28, Sec. 4, and was made in reference to New York and Brooklyn. The argument adduced in favor was, that the presiding elders (chiefly such as in this Conference) had favored themselves by striking out the six years rule, and it would be unjust to leave the burden on those who were not presiding elders.

The Rev. Dr. BACON remarked, by way of caution, that we had given a pledge that no change in discipline, not necessary in the nature of things, should be sought after, and referred to the *declaration agreed on at Louisville*.

Dr. SMITH considered himself free from the general good.

The resolution was laid on the table and the Conference adjourned.

POSTSCRIPT.

Dates in the 4th have been received at New Orleans from the American camp, and events there are pretty much as we expected. A few words will tell the whole story.

Gen. Taylor, fearing from reports that Point Isabel would be assailed, left the American camp with a considerable body of soldiers, and reached without meeting with anybody. The Mexicans taking advantage of Gen. Taylor's withdrawal with a large body from the American camp, attacked it. The fight continued during the day. The Mexican batteries were effectively silenced—Metamoras reduced to ashes, and from four to seven hundred Mexicans killed. Only one American fell.

Gen. Taylor met with considerable reinforcements, and returned to Point Isabel. There is no danger from the Mexicans. They cannot stand before our troops, and all the reports we have had about their numbers, &c., &c., are exaggerated.

ITEMS.

TEXAS CONVENTION.—D. S. Knuffman is undoubtedly referred to Congress from the first (eastern) district. It is uncertain whether W. H. Williams or P. L. Peel is elected in the second. All the counties, except Colorado and Brazos, give W. H. Williams 1077, Pillingsby 1061, Cook 955. The *Garrison-Civilians* say the result will probably be known in a few days.

The Boston Tribune contains the following table, showing how many persons co-partnerships and corporations, were taxed twenty-five dollars and upwards in that city, in 1845:

| From | To | \$20 | 125 |
|--------------|------|------|------|
| 100 | 100 | 100 | 50 |
| 200 | 200 | 200 | 100 |
| 300 | 300 | 300 | 150 |
| 400 | 400 | 400 | 200 |
| 500 | 500 | 500 | 250 |
| 600 | 600 | 600 | 300 |
| 700 | 700 | 700 | 350 |
| 800 | 800 | 800 | 400 |
| 900 | 900 | 900 | 450 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 500 |
| 1500 | 1500 | 1500 | 750 |
| 2000 | 2000 | 2000 | 1000 |
| 2500 | 2500 | 2500 | 1250 |
| 3000 | 3000 | 3000 | 1500 |
| 3500 | 3500 | 3500 | 1750 |
| 4000 | 4000 | 4000 | 2000 |
| P. C. Brooks | 6000 | 6000 | 3000 |

The three in the above table who pay a tax between \$600 and \$4000 are the *Fifty Associates*, (an incorporation) J. D. Williams, and Roger L. Shaw. The two between the sums of \$100 and \$3000, are Abijah Lawrence and John Willis.

Gen. Worth and Loew Lark a South of Gen. W. staff, are now in Washington on Tuesday, the 7th, from General Taylor's camp, by the southern route. We understand they represent the army as perfectly secure against any attack, and no prospect of any invasion.

A day ago we were constructed at New Orleans, capsule of neocromating the largest sum.

COL. CROSS AND LIEUT. PORTER.

The following extracts from a letter from an officer of the U. S. Army in Texas, written at the camp on the 22d of April, state the particulars of the death of Lieut. Porter:

"The body of Col. Cross has been found, stripped of all clothing, and was yesterday noon brought into this place. It will be interred this day with military honors."

Lieut. Dobkins, 3d infantry, and Lieut. Porter of the 5th infantry, son of the late Commodore Porter, left this camp on the 17th inst., each with a party of two or three commissioned officers and ten privates, in reconnoitring the surrounding country, from ten to twenty miles, in search of a hand of robbers known to its inhabitants. The revolutionary party had seized upon the Texas question to effect its own ends, and had been disengaged, a government either unable or unwilling to enforce the execution of such treaties, as it is to perform one of its plainest duties.

Our commerce with Mexico has been almost annihilated. It was formerly highly beneficial to both nations, but our interests have been defrauded in presenting it by the systematic outrage and extortions which the Mexican authorities have pursued against them, since their appeal through their government for redress has been made in vain.

Our forces are fully engaged in the campaign of November, and were eminently received by the authorities of that city. But the government of General Herrera was then attacking its fiscal.

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POETRY.

The following lines, written by Mr. ANANAS in the Album of a young lady, are published for the first time in the Saturday Evening Post.

TO MISS E***** McLV***.

One day between the Lip and Heart
A wordless smile answers—
Which was experienced in the art
His purpose to disclose.
The Lip called birth his vassal Tongue,
And made him vouch—a lie;
The slave saw his service anthem sung,
And heard the bating sky.
The Heart, to speak, in vain essayed,
Nor could his purpose teach—
His will nor voice nor tongue obeyed:
His silence was his speech.
Mark thou their difference, child of Earth!
While each performs his part;
Not all the Lip can speak is worth
The silence of the Heart!

—John Quincy Adams.

WASHINGTON U. T.

The Liberty of the Press

Two centuries ago newspapers were unknown; 100 years ago a few were published, which scarcely deserved the name. It is only within the last half century that they have grown into public importance, and become one of the elements of civilization. At the present day, every enlightened country, weekly and daily, morning and evening newspapers, are issued, and scattered over the world, instructing mankind in every branch of knowledge which can improve the understanding, or purify the heart.—They are swift-winged Mercures of intelligence. They are messengers which the authors of new theories, or discoveries in art and science, and the leaders of every sect or party in religion, medicine and politics, send abroad with words of praise, or blame, argument, or denunciation, to gather fresh votaries, or confound their enemies. Strike newspapers out of existence, and you blot moon and stars from the firmament of truth and knowledge, and leave the great mass of the human race once more to grope blindly in intellectual and moral darkness, and sink to slavery beneath the kindred and united powers of ignorance and despotism.

But the press, in order to be useful and do good, must be untrammeled and free. If it be the tool of government as in the absolute, or under censure as in some of the limited monarchies of Europe, it is then only an instrument of power to do evil. Its energies are employed, not for the general good, but for the benefit of the few, not to equalize the ranks and conditions of men, but to create and perpetuate distinctions and disparities, to exalt the high, depress the low, enrich the wealthy, and crush the poor.

The freedom of the press is acknowledged in but two countries of the world, and guaranteed in but one. In Great Britain for fifty years past it has been practically free, and since the people of England have had an independent press to watch over their interests and guard their rights, no James has been upon the throne, no Jeffries upon the bench. The nation has advanced rapidly in wealth and power, many of the oldest and strongest bulwarks of error and superstition have been battered down, and every year is a year of progress towards liberty and equal rights.

In this country the freedom of the press is guaranteed by the constitution, and it cannot be abridged by act of legislature, or by the arbitrary and unaccountable interference of courts and judges. Those who attempt to trample it down will surely find themselves kicking against the pricks. The press is sure of the support of an intelligent community whenever it is wantonly and maliciously assaulted. Where law and justice have been manifestly outraged to gratify the angry feeling of the moment, the public will not be slow to discover it, and the perpetrators will not escape indignation and contempt, by the assumption of powers and virtues which they do not possess.

Since a certain man who commenced the trade of a politician in this city, and who has since been raised to high public stations, promulgated the saying which has now become the motto of his party: "To the victor belong the spoils," candidates for office are not selected on account of their fitness, or capacity, but for their party services, and undoubted partisanship. Every office is filled by the adherents of the party in power. The tenure of office is a tenancy by sufferance, liable to be terminated at any moment. Ability, integrity, faithfulness, industry in the discharge of official duties, are slightly esteemed in comparison to unquestioning obedience to the behests of party and slavish subserviency to party interests. Derision of party is more severely punished than treason to the country.

When judges visit the jails, and talk to criminals about politics, and hint to them that they stand in much greater peril on account of the unfortunate result of certain elections —when slight punishments are inflicted on those who promise to be more faithful hereafter—when convicted scoundrels are set at large with the terrors of fine and imprisonment hanging over them for the purpose of frightening them to draw true in party traces—and the history of other countries is not without instances of the kind)—what honest man can have the least respect for the corrupt judges, the seats which they pollute, or the stations which they prostitute? We refer, of course, to the Irish criminal trials, and the criminal trials of the French revolution. In England and in this country, judges would not dare to be guilty of such acts, for a free and vigilant press, which has the right to canvas their conduct, and publish their proceedings and decisions, would immediately lay bare their iniquity, and expose them to the contempt of the people. In all such cases how certain and how just is the retribution of history; the crime and the criminal are forgotten, or forgiven, while the judges are gibeted in view of all posterity, and fester with the infamy of years.

"It is the duty of a free press, in a free country, to scrutinize closely the conduct of the public servants. Their acts should be truly and fully spread before the public. It is the only mode in which the mass of the people can be made acquainted with public affairs. They look to the press and rely on it for their information. That press would be unfaithful to itself and to the public, which should hesitate to publish any statement of facts, however unfavorably it might bear upon officers of any name or grade. Wherever there is any appearance of corrupt partiality in the preference of official offices, the necessity of exposure is the more plain and imperative. If a statement of facts gives rise to disgraceful imputation and damning inferences, the same press which gave the statement publicity is also open to a defense or justification. The facts must stand, but the imputations and inferences may be wholly explained away."

"I, the Great Minister, do not understand drawing a line of demarcation between the religious ceremonies of the various nations; but virtuous Chinese shall by no means be punished on account of the religion they hold. No matter whether they worship images or do not worship images, there are no prohibitions against them, as well as to Catholic forms of worship."

CHINESE TOLERATION.—There is much wisdom in the following declaration of Keying, the Chinese Commissioner, in his letter to the British Minister, on the interpretation to be given to a clause in the treaty stipulating for the toleration of the Christian religion, extending it to Protestant as well as to Catholic forms of worship.

"It is one of many legal fictions that public acts, and all records of judgments, deeds, mortgages, &c., are of themselves notice to all the world of their existence. It is at first thought a little ridiculous to be told that John Doe, of Nassau, is presumed to know that Richard Roe, of Hoochie, has mortgaged his farm. Yet if John Doe should buy Richard Roe's farm and pay him the full value

of it without searching the records, he would find this presumption a very substantial affair, and he would be apt to lose some cash by it. It appears also quite absurd that a man who cannot read, or write, and who actually knows nothing at all of the terms and provisions, pains and penalties, of our present election law, should be presumed to be thoroughly acquainted with it. Yet more than one ignorant instrument of fraud has gone to the state prison by means of this violent presumption. When such are the fictions of law, and every body is presumed to be acquainted with the minutes and decisions of courts, it must appear still more strange to the simple minded and honest, that the publication of those minutes and decisions should be a high-handed misdemeanor. If a man, poor, ignorant, and friendless, the victim of a shrewd and more intelligent knave, is indicted and convicted of a minor offence, and pleads his total ignorance of the law in extenuation of the crime, his plea is laughed at and hooted out of court. This is right. Such a plea, if admitted, would be offered by every rascal in justification of every offence. We must hold fast to the legal fiction, abide by the general rule, so matter how hard it may occasionally hear upon individual offenders. At the firdhest, courts in the exercise of a sound discretion, can only listen to such a plea in extenuation of the crime and mitigation of punishment.

How strange it would be if a court, in its own case, should overlook this legal fiction, and plead ignorance of its own minutes and decisions, and when a report of them, substantially true in all material particulars, should be published, should shamelessly and impudently pronounce it false, and grossly inaccurate, and continue its brazen denial in the face of evidence convincing and conclusive to every impartial mind. Such a case could not happen in this country. We doubt if an instance could be adduced, since King Charles I's court of star chamber was abolished, or since the press has been free to comment upon such conduct. If such a case should ever occur in this country, while we are protected by constitutional guarantees, and sustained by a community who love justice, and hate oppression, who honor virtue and despise iniquity, we presume that it shall not go unpunished and uncondemned. We would say to the court, it is better to explain goodnairly than to punish penitently. Beware lest in your haste to vindicate yourselves from imaginary charges, you convince the public of the truth of the imputations and inferences, which you are so justly and sincerely anxious to repel.

Troy Whig.

SELECTIONS.

BLESSEDING.—We love to see the rosy line mounting over the neck and face of a beautiful woman; it shadows forth, delicately and softly, the gentle feeling of the soul. It is the "evidence of timidity, which is lovely in woman." Our upon your masculine mind—upon your rough, sturdy genius; we prefer the steel to—say—iron to oak. Woman's natural element is refinement; her home, the domestic circle. Unfit by nature to buffet with the world's waves, or mingle in its strife, she lives dependent upon a stronger spirit, and repays in kindness and discretion, to exalt the high, depress the low, enrich the wealthy, and crush the poor.

The freedom of the press is acknowledged in but two countries of the world, and guaranteed in but one. In Great Britain for fifty years past it has been practically free, and since the people of England have had an independent press to watch over their interests and guard their rights, no James has been upon the throne, no Jeffries upon the bench. The nation has advanced rapidly in wealth and power, many of the oldest and strongest bulwarks of error and superstition have been battered down, and every year is a year of progress towards liberty and equal rights.

In this country the freedom of the press is guaranteed by the constitution, and it cannot be abridged by act of legislature, or by the arbitrary and unaccountable interference of courts and judges. Those who attempt to trample it down will surely find themselves kicking against the pricks. The press is sure of the support of an intelligent community whenever it is wantonly and maliciously assaulted. Where law and justice have been manifestly outraged to gratify the angry feeling of the moment, the public will not be slow to discover it, and the perpetrators will not escape indignation and contempt, by the assumption of powers and virtues which they do not possess.

Since a certain man who commenced the trade of a politician in this city, and who has since been raised to high public stations, promulgated the saying which has now become the motto of his party: "To the victor belong the spoils," candidates for office are not selected on account of their fitness, or capacity, but for their party services, and undoubted partisanship. Every office is filled by the adherents of the party in power. The tenure of office is a tenancy by sufferance, liable to be terminated at any moment. Ability, integrity, faithfulness, industry in the discharge of official duties, are slightly esteemed in comparison to unquestioning obedience to the behests of party and slavish subserviency to party interests. Derision of party is more severely punished than treason to the country.

When judges visit the jails, and talk to criminals about politics, and hint to them that they stand in much greater peril on account of the unfortunate result of certain elections —when slight punishments are inflicted on those who promise to be more faithful hereafter—when convicted scoundrels are set at large with the terrors of fine and imprisonment hanging over them for the purpose of frightening them to draw true in party traces—and the history of other countries is not without instances of the kind)—what honest man can have the least respect for the corrupt judges, the seats which they pollute, or the stations which they prostitute? We refer, of course, to the Irish criminal trials, and the criminal trials of the French revolution. In England and in this country, judges would not dare to be guilty of such acts, for a free and vigilant press, which has the right to canvas their conduct, and publish their proceedings and decisions, would immediately lay bare their iniquity, and expose them to the contempt of the people. In all such cases how certain and how just is the retribution of history; the crime and the criminal are forgotten, or forgiven, while the judges are gibeted in view of all posterity, and fester with the infamy of years.

"It is the duty of a free press, in a free country, to scrutinize closely the conduct of the public servants. Their acts should be truly and fully spread before the public. It is the only mode in which the mass of the people can be made acquainted with public affairs. They look to the press and rely on it for their information. That press would be unfaithful to itself and to the public, which should hesitate to publish any statement of facts, however unfavorably it might bear upon officers of any name or grade.

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"I owe you a thousand thanks for this proof of friendship," answered Raphael.

"Ah! I breathe the pure mild air that comes from God. Nature is so beautiful, so life. May it please Him who commands all things, that on this gentle breeze my soul may rise towards the celestial regions!"

"Thou wilt not die, Raphael," cried Foranaria, dismayed. "Oh, no—that thou will not die. God hear me favorably, if ever he loved mankind. Pity, pity, holy mother of God! Pity, by the love of thy son! Divine Madonna, wilt thou deign to listen to my prayer? If he should die—

INSCRIPTION.—A Japan inscription illustrates the soul in the following manner:—Look at mankind. If you contemplate its state when living, its existence is no more than that of an herb, which shoots up in the face of the earth. Concerning the soul, it is like the dew, which hangs on the points of grass. The substance of the priest's exhortation to the soul of a person deceased is, that it should be conscious of being the work of the Creator of the universe; and after leaving its earthly dwelling, that it should speed its way to the source whence it issued.

The natives of Terrene, one of the Malacca islands, exhibit little show of religion; and no one is allowed to speak upon it to a stranger. But they have temples, and the priests go at stated periods with an assemblage of persons, when they silently point to an inscription on a pyramid, which embraces nearly the whole system of ethics.

"MORTALS!—Adore your God!—Love your brethren!—And strive to be useful to your country!" Few volumes of theology, even though they contain three thousand pages, are more comprehensive, in point of morality, than these three sentences.

THE TONGUE.—There are but ten precepts of the law of God, says Leighton, and two of them so far as concerns the outward organ and vent of the soul there forbidden, are bestowed on the tongue; one in the first table, and the other in the second—as though it were ready to fly out both against God and man if not thus bridled.

Pythagoras used to say that a wound from the tongue is worse than a wound from a sword, for the latter affects only the body, the former the spirit—the soul.

It was a remark of Anacharsis, that the tongue was at the same time the best part of a man and his worst; that with good government none is more useful, and without, none more mischievous.

Bochvay, says Dr. Johnson, was never soured by calomny and detraction; nor ever thought it necessary to confute them; "for," said he, "they are sparks, which, if you do not blow them, will go out of themselves."

We cannot, says Cato, control the evil tongue of others, but a good life enables us to despoil them.

Standar, says Laeon, cannot make the subjects of it either better or worse. It may represent us in a false light, or place a likeness of us in a bad one. But we are the same. Not so the slanderer; the slanderer that he utters makes him worse, the slanderer never.

No one, says Jerome, loves to tell a tale of scandal except to him who loves to it. Learn then to rebuke and check the detracing tongue, by showing that you do not listen to it with pleasure.

Singular Sea Fight.

On board the Peacock they witnessed a sea fight between a whale and one of its enemies. The sea was quite smooth, and the gentle feeling of the soul. It is the "evidence of timidity, which is lovely in woman." Our upon your masculine mind—upon your rough, sturdy genius; we prefer the steel to—say—iron to oak. Woman's natural element is refinement; her home, the domestic circle. Unfit by nature to buffet with the world's waves, or mingle in its strife, she lives dependent upon a stronger spirit, and repays in kindness and discretion, to exalt the high, depress the low, enrich the wealthy, and crush the poor.

—Troy Whig.

AGRICULTURAL.

Farm Work for May.

May has come, bright May, and yet we are not prepared. May is our planting month, say what will at Cape Horn and Cape Good Hope. May is the month of promise, Andrea, by what fatality has it been occasioned that you bring me here?"

"Oh, how happy am I to see, in my house, the greatest man of the age!" rejoined Raphael. "Why do you come to me? All that I possess belongs to thee; may you be always out of the reach of want. I pray the Most High to bless thee. My pictures are for you, my faithful pupils. A small portion of what their sale produces will be sufficient to assist my poor cousin if Raphael was as great in invention as in execution I should admire him!" Nevertheless, the eye of Angelo was chained by the beauty of the picture, he could not take himself from it. "This," continued he, after a pause, "this will put the seal to his works; it is a work which surpasses his others in beauty, yes, certainly, Raphael is an artist."

"Ah! the best hour of my life has struck—Boonarotti, himself, calls me an artist!" interrupted Raphael, who had entered unperceived, and had been witness of the scene we have just related. Paleness overspread his brow. Angelo turned around, smiling.

"I cannot finish it," said he; "myself glorified, I am going to see the Lord, in all his splendor and serenity. Do you finish it—you, Giulio—Boonarotti, do you still entertain any enmity towards me?"

Angelo's eyes were bathed in tears. "May you die in peace," answered Raphael, extending his hand toward the dying man—"I never hated thee!"

"One more kiss, Foranaria!—I am coming, Father!"

Foranaria uttered one long cry,—"Raphael!"

Raphael was wrapped in a profound reverie.

Foranaria approached, and kissed the forehead of the much loved one, offered him the pretty basket full of delicious fruits.

"Let us go—my love has taken the advance," said Raphael.

"While I have gone to thy house, and thy mother is there waiting for me here. Thy present comes at a good time; but all her fondness were of no avail; there from several boats which were towing it to the ship.—Lieut. Wilkes."

"It is strange!" said Angelo. "What wreath should have dared?"

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